

can control and the parts that we can't control. It is up to us whether we want to spend every hour of every day trying to mitigate this predilection toward violence or whether we want to choose to exacerbate it.

Fueling the kind of racist, hateful, fear-your-neighbor demagoguery practiced by Donald Trump exacerbates American violence. Doing nothing year after year about the flow of illegal and high-powered weapons into our streets exacerbates American violence. These are choices we are making.

Kids living in fear that their classroom is the next one to get shot up, that is not inevitable; that is a choice. Black shoppers looking over their shoulder, wondering whether this is the day that they die, that doesn't have to be our reality; that is a choice.

We can look into the flames of American violence, this fire that has been burning since our inception, and we can choose to douse the fire or we can choose to continue to pour fuel on top of it.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Michigan.

(The remarks of Ms. STABENOW pertaining to the introduction of S. 4257 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I yield the floor.

#### JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this week, the Senate will consider three outstanding nominees to the Federal district courts.

All three nominees are eminently qualified for the Federal bench and have the character and judicial temperament to serve with distinction. The nominees likewise represent important progress in ensuring that the Federal judiciary reflects the nation it serves.

First is Jennifer Rochon, who has been nominated to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of New York.

Today, Ms. Rochon serves as the first general counsel of the Girl Scouts of the United States of America, a role she first assumed in 2013. She provides guidance, strategic insight, and legal counsel on a wide range of issues, and she also advises the Girl Scouts' board of directors on their fiduciary duties.

Prior to joining the organization, Ms. Rochon was a partner at Kramer Levin Naftalis & Frankel LLP and a general commercial litigator, experience that will serve her well on the district court. Notably, she was also elected by Kramer Levin's partnership to be the first woman to serve on the firm's executive committee.

Over the course of her career, Ms. Rochon has advocated for gender equality and the advancement of women in the legal profession. She is yet another example of President Biden's commitment to a professionally diverse, exceptionally qualified judiciary, and I know she will serve the Southern District of New York well.

Ms. Rochon has the strong support of her home State Senators, Mr. SCHUMER and Mrs. GILLIBRAND, and she was unanimously rated "Well Qualified" by the American Bar Association.

Given the depth of her experience and her demonstrated prowess in the law, I am proud to support Ms. Rochon's nomination, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

Our next nominee is Judge Trina Thompson. With 14 years as a trial litigator and over 21 years of service to the Alameda County Superior Court, Judge Thompson is unquestionably qualified to serve as a Federal district court judge.

She began her legal career as an assistant public defender at the Alameda County Public Defender's Office, where she tried over 35 cases as sole counsel over the course of 4 years. She then spent 10 years as a criminal defense solo practitioner, trying over 30 additional cases as sole counsel and another eight cases as cocounsel.

Back in 2000, the Alameda County Superior Court Judges appointed Judge Thompson to serve as a juvenile court commissioner on the Dependency and Delinquency Court. Just 2 years later, she was elected as an Alameda County Superior Court Judge, a role she continues to hold to this day.

Throughout her 22 years of judicial service, Judge Thompson has presided over 150 criminal jury trials, thousands of hearings, and hundreds of criminal and civil bench trials.

With her incredible depth of trial experience on and off the bench, it is no surprise that this Bay Area native, who earned both her A.B. and her J.D. from the University of California at Berkeley, has the strong support of her home State Senators, Mrs. FEINSTEIN and Mr. PADILLA.

It is also no wonder that the American Bar Association unanimously rated Judge Thompson as "Well Qualified."

The decades of trial litigation and judicial experience that Judge Thomas has accumulated will be an immense asset to the Northern District of California, which has a number of vacancies that urgently need to be filled by qualified judges.

I strongly urge my colleagues to join me in supporting her confirmation.

Finally, the Senate will vote on Judge Sunshine Sykes, who has been nominated to serve on the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California.

Judge Sykes is an experienced litigator and jurist with a long record of unbiased decision-making. She attended Stanford University and Stanford Law School before beginning her legal career with a focus on civil litigation and juvenile dependency cases. She served as a staff attorney for California Indian Legal Services; worked for the juvenile defense panel in Murrieta, CA; and served as a deputy county counsel in Riverside County.

In 2013, Sykes was appointed to serve as a California Superior Court judge.

As a member of the Navajo Nation, she was the first Native American individual to sit on the Riverside Superior Court. During her time as a Superior Court judge, she has presided over more than 90 cases that have gone to verdict or judgment and over thousands of additional hearings.

Judge Sykes has the strong support of Senator FEINSTEIN and Senator PADILLA, and she was unanimously rated "Well Qualified" by the American Bar Association. If confirmed, she will be the first Native American article III judge to serve in California.

Her record on the bench is deeply impressive, and she will continue to administer justice in a thoughtful, evenhanded manner as a district court judge. I will vote to confirm her to the Central District of California. I hope my colleagues join me in doing the same.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Jennifer Louise Rochon, of New York, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

#### VOTE ON ROCHON NOMINATION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the postcloture time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Rochon nomination?

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 182 Ex.]

#### YEAS—51

Baldwin	Hassan	Ossoff
Bennet	Heinrich	Padilla
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Peters
Booker	Hirono	Reed
Brown	Kaine	Sanders
Cantwell	Kelly	Schatz
Cardin	King	Schumer
Carper	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Casey	Leahy	Sinema
Collins	Lujan	Smith
Coons	Manchin	Stabenow
Cortez Masto	Markey	Tester
Duckworth	Menendez	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	Warnock
Feinstein	Murkowski	Warren
Gillibrand	Murphy	Whitehouse
Graham	Murray	Wyden

#### NAYS—47

Barrasso	Capito	Cruz
Blackburn	Cassidy	Daines
Blunt	Cornyn	Ernst
Boozman	Cotton	Fischer
Braun	Cramer	Grassley
Burr	Crapo	Hagerty

Hawley	McConnell	Scott (SC)
Hoeben	Moran	Shelby
Hyde-Smith	Paul	Sullivan
Inhofe	Portman	Thune
Johnson	Risch	Tillis
Kennedy	Romney	Toomey
Lankford	Rounds	Tuberville
Lee	Rubio	Wicker
Lummis	Sasse	Young
Marshall	Scott (FL)	

## NOT VOTING—2

Rosen	Van Hollen
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The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

## CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

## CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 847, Barbara A. Leaf, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Near Eastern Affairs).

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Brian Schatz, Martin Heinrich, Alex Padilla, Jacky Rosen, Margaret Wood Hassan, Dianne Feinstein, Benjamin L. Cardin, Richard Blumenthal, Angus S. King, Jr., Bernard Sanders, Christopher Murphy, Sheldon Whitehouse, Sherrod Brown, Michael F. Bennet, Christopher A. Coons.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Barbara A. Leaf, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Near Eastern Affairs), shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 54, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 183 Ex.]

## YEAS—54

Baldwin	Duckworth	Leahy
Bennet	Durbin	Lujan
Blumenthal	Feinstein	Manchin
Booker	Gillibrand	Markey
Brown	Hassan	McConnell
Cantwell	Heinrich	Menendez
Cardin	Hickenlooper	Merkley
Carper	Hirono	Murkowski
Casey	Kaine	Murphy
Collins	Kelly	Murray
Coons	King	Osoff
Cortez Masto	Klobuchar	Padilla

Paul	Schatz	Tester
Peters	Schumer	Warner
Portman	Shaheen	Warnock
Reed	Sinema	Warren
Romney	Smith	Whitehouse
Sanders	Stabenow	Wyden

## NAYS—43

Barrasso	Fischer	Risch
Blackburn	Graham	Rounds
Blunt	Grassley	Rubio
Boozman	Hagerty	Sasse
Braun	Hawley	Scott (FL)
Burr	Hoeben	Scott (SC)
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Shelby
Cassidy	Inhofe	Sullivan
Cornyn	Johnson	Thune
Cotton	Kennedy	Toomey
Cramer	Lankford	Tuberville
Crapo	Lee	Wicker
Cruz	Lummis	Young
Daines	Marshall	
Ernst	Moran	

## NOT VOTING—3

Rosen	Tillis	Van Hollen
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The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 54, the nays 43.

The motion is agreed to.

## RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 1:23 p.m., recessed until 2 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. KING).

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—(Continued)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

## JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, for many people—not just here in and around the Capitol but across the country—the past few weeks have been a wake-up call—a wake-up call to see the stakes of our fight for a fair judiciary.

From abortion rights to free speech to gun violence, Federal judges make countless decisions that impact our daily lives. We have been reminded of that in a very significant way. But our current Federal bench is not representative of the diversity of our country and our democracy. We have a lot of work to do to rebuild the judiciary in a way that deserves the faith of the American people, to build a judiciary that reflects and represents the diverse Nation that it serves.

I know we have talked about it before. We have been chipping away at it, not just through the Judiciary Committee but through a number of circuit court judges and district court judges across the country, including in California.

I am certainly proud of the significant step that we took recently with the confirmation of soon-to-be Justice Ketanji Brown Jackson. But for all the progress we have made this last year, we still have a lot of work to do, especially at the lower court level, where almost all Federal cases are heard. Many are decided there, and that is it.

That is why I continue to work closely with the Biden administration to recommend and support talented nomi-

nees for California's district courts—nominees who will bring a wide range of professional and lived experiences to the Federal bench.

So, today, I rise to highlight three outstanding nominees to California's district courts.

First, the Senate will soon vote on the confirmation of Judge Trina Thompson to become a judge for the Northern District of California.

Judge Thompson has deep roots serving the community of Alameda County. After earning her undergraduate degree and her JD from UC Berkeley, she began her legal career with the Alameda County Public Defender's Office; and, eventually, she built a successful solo practice in criminal defense.

Over the next decade, she handled dozens of criminal trials, and she continued to work with the county public defender's office to take on pro bono clients in the community. A legal trailblazer, Judge Thompson became the first Black woman to win election to serve as a judge in Alameda County. She has continuously demonstrated her sense of fairness, her commitment to justice, and her dedication to the rule of law. I know that Judge Thompson will continue to pave the road for equal justice on the Northern District bench.

I urge my colleagues to support her nomination.

Second, the Senate will also soon vote on Judge Sunshine Sykes' confirmation to become a judge for the Central District of California.

A member of the Coyote Pass Clan of the Navajo Nation, Judge Sykes is devoted to pursuing justice, especially for those who have too often been left behind by the legal system.

Judge Sykes earned her undergraduate degree and her JD from Stanford University. After law school, she chose to begin her legal career working for the California Indian Legal Services. There, she built a tremendous reputation as a skillful adviser and advocate for Tribes on a wide range of legal matters, from addressing domestic violence to developing Tribal courts and preserving cultural resources. She also developed an important expertise in juvenile dependency cases under the Indian Child Welfare Act.

Recognizing Judge Sykes' outstanding work, then Governor Jerry Brown appointed her to the California Superior Court in 2013. Over the past 9 years, she has presided over nearly 100 cases.

She will bring an impressive legal record, work ethic, and an appropriate sense of empathy to her judgeship in the central district.

If confirmed, Judge Sykes will also be the first Native American to ever serve on a Federal court in California. I will remind us that California is home to more federally recognized Native American Tribes than any State in the Nation.

I look forward to her distinguished service in the central district.

Finally, I would like to speak for a moment, as well, about Judge Sherilyn